



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 02 December 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Washington Times reports many Internet users are considering curbing their online shopping this holiday season for fear of identity theft and spam; nevertheless, Internet sales still are expected to reach all-time highs. (See item [5](#))
- CNN reports businesses in the Columbus, OH, area are offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and indictment of whoever was responsible for last Tuesday's shooting death on I270, following a string of 11 related shootings. (See item [9](#))
- The Associated Press reports U.S. inspectors flew to the Mexican border city of Mexicali on Sunday to visit onion exporters closed in the wake of a hepatitis outbreak that killed three people and sickened more than 600 others in Pennsylvania. (See item [14](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *December 01, Reuters* — U.S. FERC could set own energy grid standards. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) would consider issuing its own power grid reliability standards if Congress failed to approve an overhaul of U.S. energy policy early in 2004, FERC Chairman Pat Wood said on Monday, December 1. A stalled energy bill would have FERC create mandatory reliability standards to prevent another blackout like the

one in August that left some 50 million in the dark. But FERC would consider moving ahead with its own standards, possibly by this summer, if Congress were unable to pass a bill, Wood said at an agency conference on grid reliability. "The bottom line is we need to have some standards in place, hopefully by this summer," Wood said.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2003_12_01_eng-reuters_pma_US-FERC-COULD-SET-OWN-ENERGY-GRID-STANDARDS&SMContentSet=0

2. *December 01, Cox News Service* — **Nuclear reactor dilemma. A 770-ton retired nuclear reactor, filled with concrete for safety, has yet to leave its San Onofre, CA, home, but its proposed journey to a South Carolina nuclear dump already is facing many obstacles.** Legal, political and environmental issues have so far stymied Southern California Edison's (SCE) efforts to barge its retired reactor 15,000 miles around the southern tip of South America to a dump in Barnwell, SC, the only licensed facility in the United States that will take the mildly radioactive debris. **The reactor dilemma illustrates a huge problem that can only get worse — how to get rid of decommissioned nuclear reactors. More than half the nation's 103 commercial reactors face mandatory shutdown in the next 30 years.** Some problems SCE is facing include, rail lines have balked at overland shipping for liability reasons, the U.S. Department of Transportation has ruled out trucking the reactor over highways, Panama Canal officials won't allow passage because the reactor far exceeds their 150-ton weight limit for radioactive materials, Federal authorities, wary of a route around South America, question what would happen if the reactor sank in international waters, and officials in South Carolina are wary of letting the reactor enter the state through the port of Charleston.

Source: http://www.rockymounttelegram.com/news/content/coxnet/headlines/1201_nuclear.html?urac=n&urvf=10703075180700.97080052677_72667

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Chemical Sector

3. *December 01, Salle de Presse des Institutions européennes (Brussels, Belgium)* — **Research key to new EU chemical policy. At the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Ispra, Italy, European Union (EU) Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin was joined by top European chemical experts to examine the scientific basis for the New Chemicals Policy of the EU and the JRC's work on the existing and proposed EU Chemicals Legislation.** The seminar was jointly organized with the Italian Presidency of the EU. Sound science and technical guidance are essential to effectively pave the way for the implementation of the new system for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals (REACH). This will allow Europe to gather the necessary knowledge on the toxicity of chemicals and their impact on human health and the environment, while introducing new and cost-effective testing methods. **"The new EU chemicals policy aims to provide an effective instrument to policy-makers for making well-informed choices regarding the safe use of chemicals," said European Research Commissioner, Philippe Busquin.** "We must make sure that REACH will actually provide the tools for the cost-effective protection of human health and the environment, while maintaining and even boosting the European industry's competitiveness," he said.

Source: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guestfr.ksh?p_action.ge

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *November 28, UVonline.com* — **Predator over Alaska. Two U.S. Navy RQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have been deployed to the King Salmon area of south western Alaska in support of the U.S. Coast Guard. During the deployment in the Alaskan winter, the aircraft flew maritime patrol missions, which included take-off temperatures of -30° and snow.** The deployment was under the operational control of the United States Coast Guard, with operational support being provided by the United States Navy. Flight operations were under the direct control of the Navy's Center for Interdisciplinary Remotely Piloted Aircraft Studies (CIRPAS) group.

Source: <http://www.uvonline.com/cgi-bin/view?t=N&r=N/1748>

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *December 01, Washington Times* — **ID thefts stifle online buying. Many Internet users are considering curbing their online shopping this holiday season for fear of identity theft and spam, according to a survey, but Internet sales still are expected to reach all-time highs.** Online retailers anticipate a 20 percent boost in November and December sales compared with last year, according to Jupiter Research. But beneath those positive numbers lurks a segment of the online population wary of retailers' ability to protect credit-card, social-security and personal-identification numbers from criminals. The online survey by NFO WorldGroup, a Greenwich, CT, marketing research company, involved 2,500 Internet users. **Nearly half of respondents said fears over how their personal information would be used will either prevent or limit their holiday purchases online. About a third said they were afraid of identity theft, credit-card theft or unwanted e-mail.** The trend was particularly bad for smaller online retailers. Nearly one-third of survey respondents said they preferred buying from a larger online retailer because they were less trusting of how a smaller retailer would handle personal information.

Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/business/20031130-111252-8125 r.htm>

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Transportation Sector

6. *December 01, Government Computer News* — **Gulf port taps surveillance app for maritime security.** The Port of Corpus Christi, Texas, will use video surveillance software to analyze visual data as part of a \$1.8 million security upgrade. **The Security Data Management System analyzes images from remote cameras and alerts security personnel of abnormal movements or objects.** The software helps reduce the need for full-time monitoring of security video feeds, company officials said. **The Port of Corpus Christi, on the Gulf of**

Mexico, is the nation's fifth largest in terms of cargo tonnage that moves through the port. The nation's ports are required to prepare comprehensive security plans by the end of the year under rules for the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002. The Homeland Security Department finalized the rules in October. Ports must also identify security officers to oversee implementation of plans and conduct regular security assessments.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/homeland-security/24313-1.html

7. *December 01, Associated Press* — **Bumper sticker delays flight four hours. A man who slapped a bumper sticker referring to terrorism and war on the side of a plane caused a four-hour delay for a flight filled with holiday travelers. The man pasted the sticker on the door as a practical joke while boarding an Atlanta-to-San Francisco flight Sunday, AirTran Airways spokesman Tad Hutcheson said.** A ground crew worker noticed the sticker after all passengers were on board. The captain was notified by radio and decided not to take off. All 162 people on the plane had to get off and go through a second security screening. Authorities would not describe the sticker other than to say that it was about terrorism and war. **Hutcheson said the prankster was discovered by security screeners. He was not charged with a crime – nor was he identified by the airline -- and was allowed to continue on to San Francisco.**

Source: http://www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthsuperior/news/weird_news/7388002.htm

8. *December 01, The Palladium (Richmond, IN)* — **Thanksgiving traffic didn't spoil holiday.** Thanksgiving traffic was up over last year as Americans wrapped up one of the busiest travel weekends of the year on Sunday. **More than 35 million Americans traveled more than 50 miles from home for the Thanksgiving holiday, according to the American Automobile Association (AAA). That was an increase of 2.4 percent compared with last year.** The weather was not an obstacle for most of the 31 million who drove on highways from Wednesday through Sunday. The AAA estimated that nearly five million flew over the weekend. There were occasional delays -- at airports in San Francisco and Chicago, for instance -- but nothing major, according to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). **On the rails, Amtrak added 70 trains to ferry passengers through the congested cities of the Northeast. In all, the railroad estimated that it carried more than 500,000 passengers over the holiday.** Train cars bulged with 110,000 riders Sunday, 70 percent more riders than usual.

Source: <http://www.pal-item.com/news/stories/20031201/localnews/745444.html>

9. *December 01, CNN* — **\$10,000 reward posted in highway shooter case.** Businesses in the Columbus, OH, area are offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and indictment of whoever was responsible for last Tuesday's shooting death of Gail Knisley, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office announced Monday. **The 62-year-old woman is the only casualty from 11 shootings along Interstate 270, which circles Columbus, that began in May.** Knisley was hit by a single bullet as she was being driven on the highway, about 10 miles south of Columbus, to a doctor's appointment. She was taken to a hospital, where she died shortly afterward. **Chief Deputy Steve Martin reiterated his plea to residents to inform authorities of anything that might be suspicious. "Citizens with information, no matter how insignificant it appears, should immediately contact the sheriff's office," he said.** As of Monday, 350 tips had been received, he said. "Investigators continue to pursue each tip as though it may be the one lead to a successful resolution in this case." Martin also repeated his request for the shooter or shooters to contact the sheriff's office, either through a tip line or by

mail. In addition to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, the investigation includes the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Columbus Police Department and the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/Midwest/12/01/highway.shootings/index.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

10. *December 01, DM News* — **CD-ROM delivers small businesses for USPS. An integrated campaign from the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has generated a five percent response rate and increased awareness of direct mail among small businesses, the USPS said.** USPS sent a direct mail solicitation to 100,000 small businesses the last week of September, asking whether they wished to receive a free CD-ROM titled Maltown USA, which offered information about starting a direct mail campaign. Of the 100,000 people targeted, "5,000 people have already asked to receive the CD-ROM," said Marty Emery, USPS manager of customer and industry marketing. **Emery devised the CD-ROM because "attracting advertising dollars into the mailbox is the postal service's No. 1 growth opportunity." Of the 20 million businesses in the United States, 98 percent are considered small businesses, Emery said. And most small businesses do not use mail to advertise, "so there is a huge opportunity for us if we can do a better job of communicating the value and relevance of mail as an advertising medium."** The USPS asks Maltown USA users to complete a survey that is automatically sent back to the USPS. More than 76 percent said they were "very likely" to increase their advertising through the mail after viewing the CD-ROM.

Source: http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=25739

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Agriculture Sector

11. *December 01, Times-Picayune* — **Pressurized oysters may boost industry. An invention that shucks raw oysters also successfully eliminates a potentially deadly bacteria that humans can get from consuming shellfish, a new study shows. Louisiana oyster industry officials hope the new data can help answer charges that raw oysters are dangerous, especially in California, which last year banned nontreated Gulf of Mexico oysters, a move that has cost Louisiana producers an estimated \$20 million.** The hydrostatic high-pressure process, invented in 1997, places live oysters under pressures of more than 30,000 pounds per square inch for three minutes, which pops open their shells and kills *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, a naturally occurring pathogen related to the cholera bacteria that can cause food poisoning, researchers at Oregon State University found. **If the Food and Drug Administration agrees with the study, oyster producers who use pressure treating methods can begin to advertise their product as free of all vibrio bacteria,** said Michael Morrissey, director of Oregon's Seafood Lab in Astoria and a scientist involved in the study. Louisiana officials already have certified that pressure-treated oysters contain "nondetectable" levels of bacteria.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1070261781191210.xml>

12. *December 01, Ag Professional* — **EU food agency to give verdict on GM safety.** Europe's top food agency will give its first verdict on the safety of genetically modified (GM) food next week, days before the European Union (EU) debates lifting a five-year ban on new GM crops and foods. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has assessed the safety of a type of GM maize used in feed. EFSA reached its conclusion but will stay silent until December 4. **A few days after the EFSA verdict, a specialist EU committee will discuss European Commission plans to authorize imports of a GM sweetcorn, Bt-11 maize.** This committee, comprising officials from the EU's 15 member states, will meet on December 8. Bt-11 already received the required positive scientific opinion in early 2002 from another EU committee, several months before EFSA came into existence. **If Bt-11 imports are approved, the EU's unofficial ban on GM crops would effectively end.** While the product that EFSA has analyzed is different to the one that will form the focus of the committee's debate, the scientists' views could still shape the tone of the debate as they represent non-political independent opinion.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=22476

13. *November 30, Associated Press* — **Cattle rustling rises.** Increased demand for beef has boosted the value of cattle, which is good news for cattle producers. The down side is the more valuable cattle are, the more they are targets for thieves. **At least a dozen reports of cattle rustling have surfaced in Iowa this fall and in some areas of the state, sheriff's deputies have been told to watch for loaded livestock trailers moving around late at night.** A rural Maquoketa farmer lost 16 cattle worth \$14,000 last month, and a Lyon County producer lost \$20,000 worth of animals. No arrests have been made in either case. **Officials say rustlers are hard to catch. They often stake out farms for days, watching a farmer's routine. Some are professional thieves working in teams.** Investigators say rustlers often use cattle feed to lure the animals out of unlocked gates and load them into trailers. The animals are quickly sold at livestock auctions, often out of state.

Source: <http://www.theiowachannel.com/news/2671757/detail.html>

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Food Sector

14. *November 30, Associated Press* — **FDA tours Mexico exporters post-outbreak. U.S. inspectors flew to the Mexican border city of Mexicali on Sunday, November 30, to visit onion exporters closed in the wake of a hepatitis outbreak that killed three people and sickened more than 600 others in Pennsylvania.** In a phone interview, John Guzewich, director of emergency coordination and response at the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, said **inspectors heading to Mexico would be "looking for conditions that are unacceptable by U.S. standards."** The inspectors' visit is expected to take the inspectors to the Mexicali Valley, where green onions make up 90 percent of the fruit and vegetables produced, as well as green onion-producing areas outside the border cities of Tijuana and Ensenada. Most of the onions from all three areas are exported to the United States, where they are distributed around the world. "These four firms that are implicated in this (investigation), we think all or some of them in some combination caused U.S. citizens to become ill and so we want to assure that they are not shipping contaminated

food," Guzewich said.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Living/ap20031130_1077.html

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Water Sector

15. *December 01, Associated Press* — **Water systems cited for toxic chemicals. State regulators this year have cited 15 of 90 of North Carolina's largest water systems for releasing too many toxic chemicals into their water. The chemicals aren't immediately harmful, the Environmental Protection Agency says, but people who drink water containing them for several decades may face a greater cancer risk.** The toxins are the result of disinfection released into water systems, which makes drinking water safe from disease—spreading bacteria and viruses. But it also creates toxins in some water, called disinfection byproducts. The byproducts form when naturally occurring matter in water, such as soil or leaf debris, reacts with chlorine or other disinfectants. **The EPA, followed by North Carolina in 2000, set lower drinking–water limits for one class of those chemicals, trihalomethanes, and set new limits for a second class called haloacetic acids.** Surface–water systems serving 10,000 or more people had to meet new limits in January 2002. Because compliance is based on running yearlong averages, calculated every three months, violations weren't cited until this year. Through September, 15 systems of that size have been cited for violations in at least one quarter involving one or both classes chemicals.

Source: <http://www.wilmingtonstar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20031201/APN/312010548&cachetime=5>

16. *November 30, Reuters* — **Plains aquifer may be running dry. The Ogallala, a vast underground water source is critical to farm communities from South Dakota to New Mexico, providing nearly one–third of all the irrigation water used in the United States and spreading below 175,000 square miles of the nation is threatening to run dry.** In this drought–stricken part of the country, farmers are often desperate for water to aid their crops. With access to the Ogallala coming under increasingly tight control, some farmers are changing the types of crops they plant or giving up farming altogether. The ramifications for rural communities are potentially so dire that the problem has caught the attention of Congress. A bill now pending in Washington seeks funds for an extensive study of the Ogallala, and another in rough draft form proposes to pay farmers to stop using the water. **Estimates of the aquifer's long–term sustainability vary according to geography, with some areas of the underground water supply still showing another 250 years of capacity or more. But many areas spread through the different states have far less time, maybe 60 more years of capacity, some experts say.** The depth of the aquifer varies from 150 feet in some areas to 750 feet or more in others. **Some critical areas are seeing the aquifer drop three to five feet a year.**

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nm/20031130/b_s_nm/bizaquifer_dc_1

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Public Health Sector

17. *December 01, AMNews* — Congress told to think globally on disease threat. Experts on infectious diseases told congressional staffers during a November 19 Capitol Hill briefing that government needs to invest in global public health surveillance and control capacities. Emerging infectious diseases often first appear in countries far from the U.S., but they can still become problems close to home. "Unless we have an awareness of those diseases and an awareness of the public health threats going on outside the United States, we are ill-prepared for dealing with those diseases when they reach our shores," said Donald S. Burke, associate department chair for disease prevention and control at Johns Hopkins University's Dept. of International Health. The long-term neglect of public health infrastructure is a serious issue in foreign cities. There is a need to train more lab workers and construct additional facilities. **The emergence of bioterrorism also means that infectious diseases are a threat to the nation's security, noted Clarence J. Peters, University of Texas professor of microbiology.** Emerging infectious diseases pose an economic threat. The price tag for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) is estimated at around \$8 billion. Source: <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2003/12/08/hlsc1208.htm>

18. *December 01, Scientific American* — Superbug gained resistance from neighboring bacteria. Staphylococcus is able to develop resistance to most classes of antibiotics soon after they enter clinical use. **Vancomycin, a so-called last-ditch drug, can stop many of these multidrug-resistant strains. But some bacteria that are closely related to S. aureus, which often causes life-threatening infections in hospital settings, can fend off vancomycin, prompting concerns that soon S. aureus will, too.** In June 2002, the vancomycin-resistant staph was cultured from foot ulcers on a patient in a Michigan hospital. Linda M. Weigel of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and her colleagues analyzed the microbe to determine the source of its resistance. They found that the responsible gene had come from another species of bug in the patient's sore. A double-stranded unit of DNA jumped from Enterococcus faecalis to the S. aureus strain, thereby conferring the ability to fight vancomycin. The researchers tested whether this staph strain could in turn pass on its resistance to other types of Staphylococcus and found that the trait was indeed transferable. **The authors note that their findings reinforce concerns of potential widespread resistance to one of the few classes of agents still active against multidrug-resistant S. aureus.** Source: <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?chanID=sa003&articleID=00025710-E221-1FC4-A22183414B7F0000>

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Government Sector

19. *December 01, The Miami Herald* — More migrants being halted off U.S. coast. Interceptions of illegal aliens are becoming more frequent, and arrivals of large migrant-laden boats more infrequent on local shores -- which federal officials link to more efficient detection techniques under the new Department of Homeland Security. Figures recently released by the U.S. Coast Guard show a sharp jump in the number of migrant interdictions along U.S. shores and in waters traditionally used by migrant boats, including the

Florida Straits and the Windward Passage between Cuba and Haiti. **Officials say their agencies are coordinating efforts better now that they're all under Homeland Security.** Coordination and information sharing among border and coastal security agencies did exist before Homeland Security, but it was limited and circuitous. **"You have an increase in successful interdictions because of the increased interagency cooperation and the ability to share resources and capabilities,"** said Lt. Tony Russell, public affairs officer for the **Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami.** Despite the improved coordination, officials say small numbers of migrants still manage to avoid detection, especially those who are smuggled in. A year ago, Roberts said, smugglers brought larger numbers of illegal migrants aboard unsafe boats. Now they are using faster vessels and bringing smaller groups.
Source: <http://www.sunherald.com/mld/sunherald/news/nation/7387452.htm>

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Emergency Services Sector

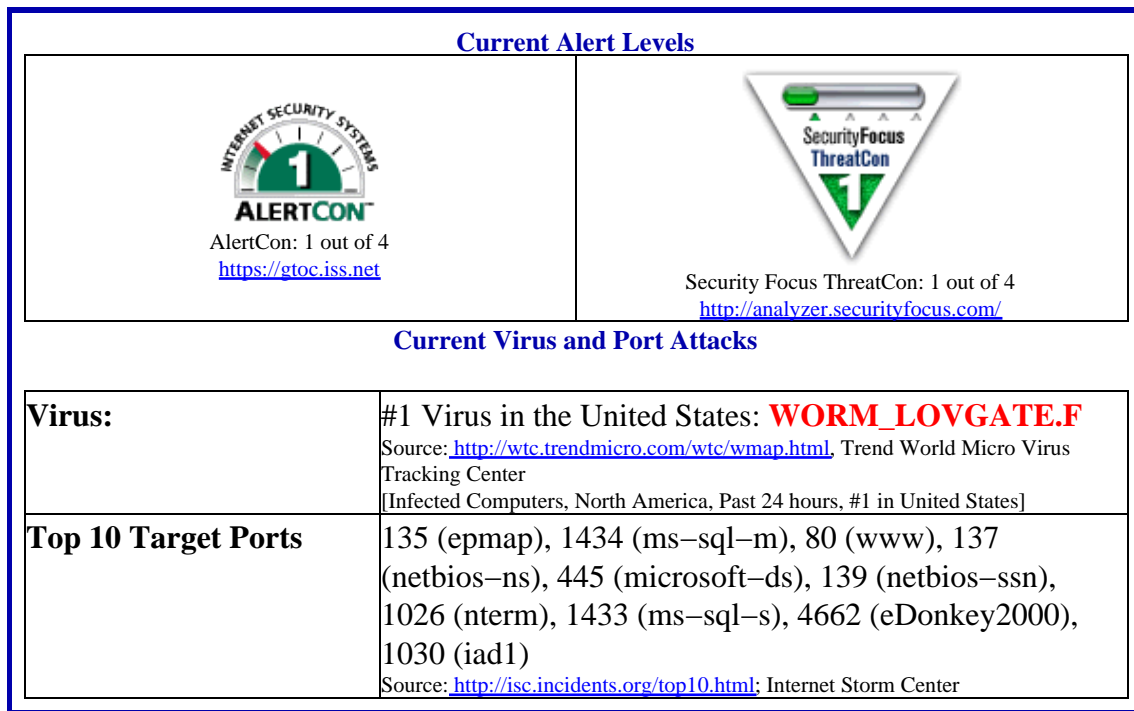
20. *December 01, Federal Computer Week* — **Government thinks regionally.** Rethinking how best to finance the mobilization of homeland security–related resources, federal officials are exploring funding regions in addition to states and cities. **The regional concept isn't new, and some models already exist. For example, Washington, DC, Northern Virginia and southern Maryland have partnered to establish an interoperable real–time wireless data communications system. States are also exploring forming intelligence–sharing centers as a faster way to view and analyze data.** "I think the concerns about terrorist activities heighten the need for cross– collaboration, cross–jurisdiction," said Susan Benton, director of strategic initiatives at the Center for Digital Government. This summer, governors received a questionnaire from the Homeland Security Department focusing on regional planning, said Christine LaPaille, communications director at the National Governors Association. Funding regions makes it easier to improve the capacity for certain capabilities, such as urban search and rescue or hazardous material cleanup, for a given region rather than for every city. In the long run, it's also a cheaper investment.
Source: http://www.fcw.com/supplements/homeland/2003/sup4/hom–fundin_g2–12–01–03.asp

21. *December 01, Port Clinton News Herald (Ohio)* — **Homeland security part of boating class training. New agreements between the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary incorporate new Homeland Security guidelines and continue the state's strong boating safety education programs.** ODNR Director Sam Speck, ODNR Division of Watercraft Chief Ken Alvey and USCG 9th District Admiral Ronald A. Silva signed an agreement that incorporates new Homeland Security guidelines in defining the enforcement role of each agency on Lake Erie waters. **A separate agreement between ODNR and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary defines the roles of each organization in regards to Ohio's mandatory boater education law. It also defines how ODNR and the USCG Auxiliary will work together to teach approved boating safety courses.** The agreement was also signed by Dolores Kearton, vice commodore of the USCG Auxiliary 8th District (Eastern Region) and George Webster, Commodore of the USCG Auxiliary 9th District (Eastern Region).
Source: <http://www.portclintonnewsheald.com/news/stories/20031201/localnews/745021.html>

Information and Telecommunications Sector

22. *December 01, Reuters* — **FCC delves into new rules for Web-based calls.** Top U.S. communications regulators said on Monday, December 1, that **Internet-based telephone service probably should face lighter regulation than traditional land line service — but were less certain what rules should apply.** "Let no regulatory prescription be ordered without first showing it's needed," Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Michael Powell told a day-long Washington forum on regulating the rising number of Internet-based phone services. Telephone carriers are rapidly trying to shift calls to high-speed Internet lines, using so-called Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology for a more efficient and cheaper way to route calls. In addition, technology companies and cable operators have begun deploying VoIP service. **The FCC has largely taken a hands-off approach to the Internet but now it is converging with heavily regulated telephone service.** Powell said he had hoped to begin later this month formal proceedings to set an appropriate regulatory framework for the service, but those will not likely kick off until January at the earliest. New policy could take a year or longer to formulate and FCC policies are often challenged in the courts, which can prolong implementation.
Source: <http://reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=technologyNews&storyID=3918353>
23. *December 01, The Register* — **Website .name registry hacked.** The Website of the .name registry was hacked over the weekend through an Apache exploit. **London-based Global Name Registry (GNR) was updating its Apache and PHP system when hackers broke into the system and replaced the frontpage index file. The hackers didn't manage to access the system and no data was lost,** GNR's president Hakon Haugnes said. The site was taken offline and was back up by Sunday, November 30 with added security. "We were adding patches but in spite of that someone managed to get to the index file," said Haugnes. The .name domain—one of seven approved by ICANN in 2001—now has around 100,000 registrants.
Source: <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/55/34273.html>
24. *November 28, New York Times* — **Beware the worm in your handset.** As more consumers begin surfing the Web and sending e-mail messages on cellphone and hand-held devices, along comes a new worry: worms and viruses spread via Internet-enabled handsets. The problem is still small, with only a few cases reported globally. But **as operating systems in cellphones become standardized, hackers will probably begin focusing on vulnerabilities in those systems as they have with personal computers.** And as cellphones and personal digital assistants connect to the Internet at ever faster speeds, more users will be able to download files with attachments—some of which may be infected. **Asia, where high-speed networks and text messaging on mobile phones are common, is the most vulnerable to these threats.** As carriers in Europe and North America adopt similar technology, they will confront the same kinds of hazards. Telecommunications companies currently spend as much as \$8 billion a year fixing handsets with programming errors, faulty mechanics and other problems. Now some are scrambling to prevent virus attacks that could cost carriers millions of dollars more in repairs and lost business.
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/28/technology/28cell.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

25. *December 01, Associated Press* — Turkish government links bombings to al Qaeda.

Turkey's government Monday made its strongest statement yet about the link between last month's deadly bombings and al Qaeda, saying the suicide attackers and their associates had ties with the terrorist group. **"According to the information we have right now, both those who were involved in these terrorist attacks as suicide bombers, and those who had relations with them, seem close to al Qaeda, are linked to the al Qaeda terrorist organization," Deputy Prime Minister Abdullatif Sener said after a Cabinet meeting.** Western and Turkish officials have said the suicide attacks on two Istanbul synagogues on November 15 and the British Consulate and a London-based bank in Istanbul five days later bore similarities to attacks carried out by Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network. The bombings killed 61 people. High-ranking Turkish officials have acknowledged that the attacks appeared to have international links, but have been hesitant to name al Qaeda outright. **There have been at least three claims of responsibility for the bombings purportedly from al Qaeda.**

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2003-12-01-turkey_x.htm

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DHS/IAIP Products &Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

DHS/IAIP Warnings – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

DHS/IAIP Publications – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

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